

New law provides that the legislature finds that the non-emergent utilization rate of emergency departments in the state is at an all-time high. The legislature further finds that one of the causes for such a high utilization rate is the lack of information by the citizens of this state about alternative facilities to receive health care that are available in their communities such as outpatient clinics and after-hours programs.

New law requires that the DHH secretary distribute and make available information which will provide citizens of this state with information concerning the various health care facilities and providers available to provide non-emergent care.

New law provides that the information shall be community-specific and distributed in each community in such a manner that the information will be available to the largest number of citizens.

Effective August 15, 2010.

(Adds R.S. 40:2021)